ism!" I, too, felt uneasy but forgot my doubts when the Soviet passed on to the main item on the agenda: the threat of a pogrom in St. Petersburg.

THE AVERTED POGROM

At that time a wave of pogroms was rolling through Russia. In contrast to the anti-Jewish pogroms of Pleve, these were directed mainly against the intellectuals. Though monarchistic traditions had generally faded during the latter part of the Russo-Japanese War, they survived in some groups of the population and gained new strength after the Manifesto. Middle-class persons were afraid of the revolution and tired of strikes. The police fostered the organization of underworld characters into "The Black Hundreds" as a spearhead of a "patriotic movement," and provided them with knives, torches, and plain-clothes agents as leaders.

The wave of violence had not reached St. Petersburg, but in the second half of October rumors spread that Trepov was about to stage a bloody pogrom in the capital. Lists of persons reputedly earmarked for assassination were circulated. Some of them contained names of well-known liberal professors, journalists, and lawyers, while others included the leaders of the Soviet and leftist groups. One list featured the meeting speakers.

The Municipal Council, alarmed by insistent rumors that a pogrom was set for Sunday, October 30, sent a deputation to the Military Governor. General Trepov did not deny the rumors but declared bluntly that true Russians, faithful to religion, motherland, and the Tsar, exasperated by the behavior of students, Jews, and Socialists, were entitled to express their feelings. The members of the delegation reported Trepov's words to the Executive Board of the Soviet as confirmation of rumors of an imminent pogrom. The Board sent notices to all mills and factories and called a meeting of the Soviet for the evening of the twenty-ninth.

Before the Soviet met, however, the precincts took the matter into their own hands. A call went out to marshal defense commandos. Since firearms were lacking, the workers were to carry knives, crossbars, bludgeons, and pikes. The Neva precinct became the arsenal of democracy. Carloads of these weapons were sent to other parts of the city, armed commandos were posted at strategic points, and liaison service was established. By the evening of October 29, some twelve thousand armed workers were ready to meet Trepov's gangs. Only a few hundred had pistols and hunting guns, but all workers had been alerted to go into the streets at the signal. Samples of